

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197488

63

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:BAS

APPROVED BY NEA:ARDBAY

IO/ML:JWASHBURN

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

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R 100028Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197488

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MLAT, PFOR, UNGA, TS

SUBJECT:MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY; PUERTO RICO, KOREA

REF: A. STATE 181704, B. TUNIS 5410

1. IN PARALLEL WITH OTHER EFFORTS TO MODERATE ACTIONS OF NON-ALIGNED AT FORTHCOMING COLOMBO CONFERENCE, NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAY CALLED IN TUNISIAN CHARGE ARDHAOUI ON AUGUST 9 TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICO AND KOREA UNGA ISSUES.

2. DAY NOTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI HAD BEEN DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR MULCAHY ON AUGUST 2, AND THAT HIS PURPOSE IN REQUESTING MEETING WITH TUNISIAN CHARGE WAS TO GO OVER SAME POINTS WITH EMBASSY HERE. AFTER EXPLAINING BACKGROUND AND U.S. POSITION ALONG LINES OF SECRETARY'S LETTER, DAY SAID THAT U.S. HOPES TUNISIA WILL HELP IN OPPOSING 8NY

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PAGE 02 STATE 197488

EFFORTS TO PURSUE THESE TWO ISSUES

AT COLOMBO AND AT UNGA.

3. ARDHAOUI TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND PROMISED TO REPORT MEETING. HE ASKED ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS OF PUERTO RICANS IN REGULAR U.S. NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND WE REPLIED THAT NATIVE PUERTO RICANS LIKE ALL OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH STATUS CHOSEN BY PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES, PUERTO RICO DOES NOT HAVE ELECTORAL VOTES, AND AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDING IN PUERTO RICO DO NOT VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. PUERTO RICO IS REPRESENTED BY ELECTED OBSERVERS IN CONGRESS. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, POLICIES, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE197488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TSWILKINSON:BAS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760306-1139
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760868/aaaachnm.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 181704, 76 TUNIS 5410
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY; PUERTO RICO, KOREA
TAGS: PORC, PFOR, TS, RQ, KN, KS, UNGA
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006